



EPIDEMIC SITUATIONS AND COPING WITH THEM

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Epidemiology includes, among its basic concepts, terms such as: epidemic, endemic and pandemic. The first two are often discussed in classes and epidemiological studies. Stefan Chunha Ujvari,¹ in his book on pandemics, he brought a historical analysis of infections that affected the world and discussed how they modified and shaped the lives of people who experienced this situation. The author highlighted the ease of adaptation of microorganisms, increasing their chances of survival among humans, observing the speed of population displacements that must be considered with regard to control and surveillance measures against the disease.

A pandemic means the appearance of an epidemic in several countries around the world. There were many pandemics faced by the human being, some diseases such as bubonic plague, smallpox, cholera and Spanish flu. At the moment, we are experiencing the challenge of facing SARS-CoV-2, caused by a new Coronavirus, which is impacting everyone's lives, impacting the economy and mental health.

The characteristics of the virus transmission, the high number of infected people, whether with symptoms or asymptomatic, and the lack of a vaccine, associated with the absence of specific drug therapy, reveal a worrying picture of the situation with the low coverage and availability of tests for the virus. Thus, it was demonstrated that no country in the world was prepared to face the situation, even among those more developed. Brazil has been adopting preventive measures, including social isolation, personal and environmental hygiene and the correct use of masks.

It appears that the confrontation of this pandemic has, in Public Health and epidemiological information, essential roles aimed at the entire population, highlighting the groups with the highest risk of contamination, such as health professionals at the front line of work in health.

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Seeking to update and renew, from this issue the journal adds new types of articles such as: Open Space, Interview, Creation and Brief Notes. All details of each session are described in the Guidelines for Authors.

In this issue, articles are presented that address the theme specifically, such as: "The Work of the Community Health Agent in the Face of Pandemic" addresses "Primary Health Care (PHC)", that "plays an important role in this context, with actions to combat the increase in new cases and monitoring those who give intensive care, helping in the correct management of worsening situations and directing the continuity of assistance to the necessary services", highlighting the role of the Community Health Agent (CHA); the article "Primary Health Care (PHC) in the fight against COVID-19: analysis of state contingency plans in the Northeast", which presents an analysis of the Contingency Plans prepared by the management teams in order to show how "PHC has been thought of by state management structures in Northeast Brazil, proposing contingency measures to tackle this pandemic".

The critical review brings the theme of vulnerability, reviewing the book "Contemporary vulnerabilities". The author also exposes the situation in which the "world finds itself", experiencing "a historic moment of perplexity and uncertainty regarding the future of humanity and the planet" and, in this context, "the vulnerabilities are evidenced, above all, those determined by economic inequalities, political, social, gender, race and ethnicity, which have historically been the basis of societies in different nations".

Despite the emergency situation currently experienced, other aspects of human health continue to happen and need attention and study. In this way, aspects about "Maternal Experiences in Intra-family Sexual Abuse of Girls Institutionally Sheltered" and "Voice Symptoms and Other Complaints Associated with the Work of Teachers in Public Schools" are discussed.

The reader will also find themes related to Oncology Nursing, perception of this professional category about the Health Education Practice. And, involving the life of the undergraduate student in health, there are articles on Clown Therapy in medical training and the Curricular Structure of Physiotherapy Courses.

Thus, it is expected to contribute to Collective Health with the hope of better days for humanity.

REFERENCE

Health and Society Port. J. 2020;5(1):1283-1285.

1. Ujvari SC. Pandemias: a humanidade em risco. São Paulo: Contexto; 2011.